TRILLI, A.

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SCULPTORS-F

71.2009.085.02776

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Antonio Frilli

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71. 2009. 085. 02776

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
by
A. FRILLI
ASHLAND OR

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Artist:	Frilli, A., sculptor.
Title:	Abraham Lincoln, (sculpture).
Dates:	1915.
Medium:	Figure: marble; Base: granite.
Dimensions:	Figure: approx. 5 x 2 x 1 1/3 ft.; Base: approx. H. 4 ft. 4 in.
Inscription:	(On back of plinth:) A. Frilli/Firenze signed
Description:	Standing figure of Abraham Lincoln with stack of books resting by his proper left foot. His proper right arm is extended and holding a scroll in his proper right hand. His proper left hand is in his proper left front pants pocket. He is wearing an unbuttoned coat.
Subject:	Portrait male -- Lincoln, Abraham -- Full length Occupation -- Political -- President Occupation -- Law -- Lawyer
Object Type:	Outdoor Sculpture -- Oregon -- Ashland
Owner:	Administered by City of Ashland, 20 East Main Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520 Located Lithia Park, Ashland, Oregon
Remarks:	Bronze plaque in ground reads: IN MEMORY/OR/JACOB THOMPSON/PIONEER OF/1847. Nearby plaque reads: ABRAHAM LINCOLN/DONATED TO THE CITY OF ASHLAND IN 1915 BY/GWIN S. BUTLER/IN MEMORY OF HIS STEPFATHER/JACOB THOMPSON/ORIGINALLY SCULPTED IN FLORENCE, ITALY BY/A. FRILLI/EXTENSIVE RESORTATION (sic) IN 1990 BY/JEFFRY BERNARD. IAS files contain a detailed conditions assessment of the statue.
Condition:	Surveyed 1993 August. Treatment needed.
References:	Save Outdoor Sculpture, Oregon survey, 1993.
Illustration:	Image on file.
Control Number:	IAS OR000081

Item information

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Lincoln headed to storage

Despite $280 in gifts, repair funds lacking

By Jennifer Squires
Ashland Daily Tidings

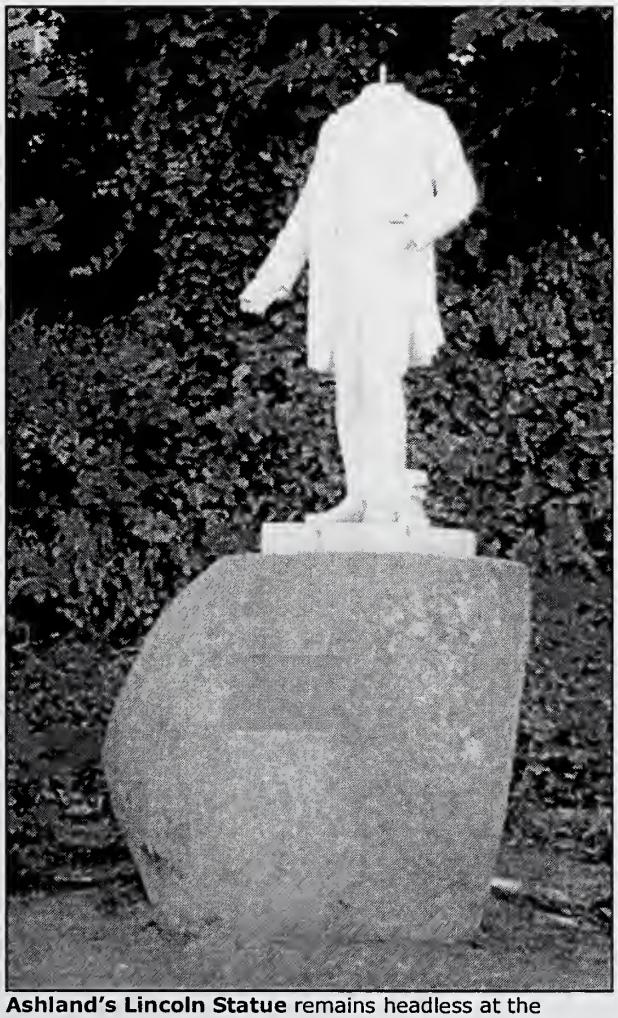
The remains of the Abraham Lincoln statue are in limbo.

The 91-year-old statue has stood headless at the entrance to Lithia Park since vandals decapitated Lincoln in August. Now parks officials are considering removing Lincoln's body from the granite boulder that acts as a pedestal until a plan to repair the marble homage to the former U.S. president has been devised.

"I think we're going to try to do that — take it down," Ashland Parks Superintendent Steve Gies said.

The statue will likely be put in storage until funding is allocated to sculpt a new head. That cost has been estimated between $8,000 and $15,000, according to Gies. Residents have donated $280 toward the project, staff at the parks department office reported.

In 1915, Gwin S. Butler donated the statue to the City of Ashland to memorialize his stepfather, pioneer Jacob Thompson, who moved to Ashland in 1847. The six-foot-tall piece was originally sculpted in Florence, Italy, by A. Frilli.



Ashland's Lincoln Statue remains headless at the entrance of Lithia Park. Vandals beheaded him in August.

Graham Lewis | For the Tidings

Lincoln has lost his noggin' twice in the past and been relegated to storage after each act of vandalism.

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The first occurred about four decades ago.

"It's head broken off, the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Ashland's Lithia Park may be removed from its site," the Daily Tidings reported on Oct. 24, 1967. "Costs of fixing the statue periodically have become too high, park officials say."

The statue was removed. Months later, the Tidings reported the statue's storage site was amid weeds at the city sewage disposal plant. The parks commission decided to repair the piece and turned to the Southern Oregon College art department for help.

Art department chairman Dr. Frank Bedogne selected a student of his, Hamid Ghavam to sand-blast blue paint off of Lincoln, repair his head and fix his right hand, which held a scroll and was missing a couple of fingers.

"Those days, it took me about a month. Of course, I was a student," said Ghavam, now a 68-year-old Ashland resident. "I did a lot of the patching."

Ghavam's work was completed 38 years ago and Lincoln resumed his lookout at the entrance to the park.

"I never touched art again," said Ghavam, who moved back to his home in Iran for several years before returning to Ashland to raise his family in 1975.

But, Ghavam's effort was only the first time Abe needed assistance. The statue was vandalized again more than 25 years ago, according to Gies. After that damage, it was consigned to storage for more than a decade.

Eventually, the statue was restored by Jeffrey Bernard and, in 1990, reintroduced to the public with a new head on his shoulders. The missing portion of his hand and the scroll were never replaced because officials feared they would be broken off again.

Once again, the expense of repairing Lincoln may put the statue back into storage.

"They have to fix it," Ghavam said. "Lincoln did a lot for this country."

The Ashland Parks and Recreation would have to approve the expenditure. At this point, the commission has not discussed fixing the statue.

"It hasn't risen from the staff level to the commission," commission chair Rich Rosenthal said. "I'm not saying that it won't."

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The Oregonian

2 heads better than none for Honest Abe

Sunday, April 30, 2006

The Oregonian

The great indignity suffered by Ashland's Great Emancipator could soon be over.

In August, vandals decapitated the 6-foot marble sculpture of Abraham Lincoln that watches over the Lithia Park entrance to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival grounds.

This month an Ashland couple pledged to rectify the former head of state's headless state by donating not one but two replacement marble heads for the statue.

The city had feared it could cost up to $12,000 for just one head.

"Two heads are better than one," said Don Robertson, director of Ashland Parks and Recreation. The extra will be kept in storage to protect against any future sculptural John Wilkes Booths.

Lincoln's benefactors, Megan Mitchell and Steve Strickland, had been looking for a way to repay the kindness of a city road crew that righted a 2,000-pound stone sculpture in their yard that vandals had knocked over.

"Since sort of the same thing happened to us, it made sense, and we were happy to help," Strickland said.

They expect to spend about $2,000 to have the heads crafted in China and shipped to Ashland.

Robertson said Lincoln could be re-capitated by the end of summer.

-- Matthew Preusch

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